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FOREWORD

This edition of THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, the 61st in print, provides comprehensive coverage of political and economic life at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. The volume is divided into three separate, though complementary, sections. In Part One a collection of introductory essays discusses the most pertinent issues affecting the region, including the growth of political Islam and the intellectual origins of the movement, and concerns over nuclear proliferation. This year's edition also features a new essay exploring the issue of Kurdish political autonomy and the campaign for an independent Kurdish state. In Part Two specialist authors, researchers and commentators examine in detail the main political and economic events in each of the countries and territories in the region. In addition, all statistical and directory material has been thoroughly updated. Extensive coverage of international organizations and research bodies concerned with the Middle East and North Africa is included in a section of Regional Information, together with bibliographies of essential books and journals. A calendar of the key political events of 2013–14 enables rapid reference to the year's main developments.

Across much of the region, the year under review was characterized by conflict and political change. Government reorganizations took place in Algeria, Cyprus, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the Palestinian territories and Turkey, while new Constitutions were approved in Egypt and Tunisia. In July 2014 Israel effected a large-scale military incursion into the Gaza Strip, in response to the firing of missiles by Palestinian militant groups, principally including Hamas. Following a formal ceasefire in August, the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimated that some 2,131 Palestinians and 71 Israelis had been killed as a result of the conflict. Meanwhile, in May 2014 the former head of the Egyptian armed forces, Abd al-Fatah al-Sisi, secured an overwhelming victory at a presidential election, and in August the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan became that country's first directly elected head of state.

As this edition went to press, a US-led military operation was under way in northern Iraq and Syria aimed at preventing further advances by militants belonging to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Islamic State), which had gained control over large areas of northern Iraq earlier in 2014. The US intervention had formally been requested by the Iraqi Government in June, and in September a group of Middle Eastern countries led by Saudi Arabia and several European countries, including France and the United Kingdom, agreed to join the effort. In late September US President Barack Obama approved the expansion of the mission into ISIL-held areas of Syria, where the civil conflict between government forces and a range of rebel groups—including ISIL—continued. In late August the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees estimated that more than 3.0m. people had fled Syria since the outbreak of that conflict in February 2011.

The entire content of the print edition of THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA is available online at www.europaworld.com. This prestigious resource incorporates sophisticated search and browse functions as well as specially commissioned visual and statistical content. An ongoing programme of updates of key areas of information ensures currency of content, and enhances the richness of the coverage.

The Editors would like to express their thanks to all the contributors for their articles and advice, as well as to the numerous governments and organizations that provided statistical and other information.

September 2014

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editors gratefully acknowledge the interest and co-operation of all the contributors to this volume, and of numerous national statistical and information offices, and government departments, as well as embassies in London and throughout the region, whose kind assistance in updating the material contained in THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA is greatly appreciated.

We acknowledge particular indebtedness for permission to reproduce material from the following publications: the United Nations' statistical databases and *Demographic Yearbook*, *Statistical Yearbook*, *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, *Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook* and *International Trade Statistics Yearbook*; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's *Statistical Yearbook* and Institute for Statistics database; the Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' statistical database; the statistical databases of the UNCTAD/WTO International Trade Centre; the statistical databases of the World Health Organization; the International Labour Office's statistical database and *Yearbook of Labour Statistics*; the World Bank's *World Bank Atlas*, *Global Development Finance*, *World Development Report* and *World Development Indicators* database; the International Monetary Fund's statistical database, *International Financial Statistics* and *Government Finance Statistics Yearbook*; the World Tourism Organization's *Compendium* and *Yearbook of Tourism Statistics*; the US Geological Survey; the International Telecommunication Union; the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia's *National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region*; Lloyd's List; and *The Military Balance 2014*, a publication of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Arundel House, 13–15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX, United Kingdom. We are also grateful to the Israeli embassy, London, for the use of two maps illustrating the disengagement agreements between Israel and Egypt, and Israel and Syria (both 1974).

The following publication has been of special value in providing regular coverage of the affairs of the Middle East and North Africa region: *Middle East Economic Digest*.

HEALTH AND WELFARE STATISTICS: SOURCES AND DEFINITIONS

Total fertility rate Source: WHO Statistical Information System. The number of children that would be born per woman, assuming no female mortality at child-bearing ages and the age-specific fertility rates of a specified country and reference period.

Under-5 mortality rate Source: WHO Statistical Information System. Defined by WHO as the probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying before reaching the age of five, if subject to the age-specific mortality rates of the year or period.

HIV/AIDS Source: UNAIDS. Estimated percentage of adults aged 15 to 49 years living with HIV/AIDS. < indicates 'fewer than'.

Health expenditure Source: WHO Statistical Information System.
US \$ per head (PPP)

International dollar estimates, derived by dividing local currency units by an estimate of their purchasing-power parity (PPP) compared with the US dollar. PPPs are the rates of currency conversion that equalize the purchasing power of different currencies by eliminating the differences in price levels between countries.

% of GDP
GDP levels for OECD countries follow the most recent UN System of National Accounts. For non-OECD countries a value was estimated by utilizing existing UN, IMF and World Bank data.

Public expenditure
Government health-related outlays plus expenditure by social schemes compulsorily affiliated with a sizeable share of the population, and extrabudgetary funds allocated to health services. Figures include grants or loans provided by international agencies, other national authorities, and sometimes commercial banks.

Access to water and sanitation Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) (Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation, 2013 update). Defined in terms of the percentage of the population using improved facilities in terms of the type of technology and levels of service afforded. For water, this includes house connections, public standpipes, boreholes with handpumps, protected dug wells, protected spring and rainwater collection; allowance is also made for other locally defined technologies. Sanitation is defined to include connection to a sewer or septic tank system, pour-flush latrine, simple pit or ventilated improved pit latrine, again with allowance for acceptable local technologies. Access to water and sanitation does not imply that the level of service or quality of water is 'adequate' or 'safe'.

Carbon dioxide emissions Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database, citing the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (sponsored by the US Department of Energy). Emissions comprise those resulting from the burning of fossil fuels (including those produced during consumption of solid, liquid and gas fuels and from gas flaring) and from the manufacture of cement.

Human Development Index (HDI) Source: UNDP, *Human Development Report* (2014). A summary of human development measured by three basic dimensions: prospects for a long and healthy life, measured by life expectancy at birth; knowledge, measured by adult literacy rate (two-thirds' weight) and the combined gross enrolment ratio in primary, secondary and tertiary education (one-third weight); and standard of living, measured by GDP per head (PPP US\$). The index value obtained lies between zero and one. A value above 0.796 indicates very high human development, between 0.710 and 0.796 high human development, between 0.534 and 0.710 medium human development, and below 0.534 low human development. A centralized data source for all three dimensions was not available for all countries. In some cases other data sources were used to calculate a substitute value; however, this was excluded from the ranking. Other countries, including non-UNDP members, were excluded from the HDI altogether. In total, 187 countries were ranked for 2013.

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